INSTRUCTOR: F. P. O'BRIEN, B.A., LL.B., LL.M.
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COURSE MATERIALS:


The above text shall be supplemented, where appropriate, by a selection of readings from other constitutional law treatises, current legal literature periodicals and case reports from Newfoundland and Labrador and other Canadian Courts. These supplementary materials shall be placed on reserve or provided in class.

EVALUATION:
1. Class test - 5 marks (Thursday February 14, 2008)
2. Mid-term examination - 30 marks (Thursday February 28, 2008)
3. Research paper - 35 marks (Due Thursday March 13, 2008)*
4. Final examination - 30 marks (Date to be scheduled by Registrar's Office)

*Please Note: Research papers received after March 13, 2008 shall be subject to a deduction of five (5) marks per day (out of 100) for every day (including weekdays and weekends) that the paper is overdue, until the paper is received. Research papers not received by March 20, 2008 shall not be accepted, and a grade of zero (0) will be given for the research paper in that instance.

RESEARCH PAPER:
The research paper component of the course provides students with an opportunity to focus in some detail on a topic relevant to the course. Students should decide on a research paper topic as soon as possible in the term. The deadline for submission of the paper is March 13, 2008.
The Instructor is available to provide guidance with respect to the recommendation of research materials for a particular topic and to ensure that the scope of the research paper is appropriate and manageable. The research paper shall be a maximum of 3000 words. More details concerning the research paper shall be provided in class.

**TOPICAL OUTLINE OF THE COURSE**

The course shall be divided into four major components, as follows:

**TOPIC # 1**
Overview of the Canadian Constitution: In this topic, the student shall be provided with an overview of and introduction to the primary considerations and principles of Canadian Constitutional Law, the role of Canadian Courts in judicial review and the main principles of constitutional interpretation. (Bakan et al., *Canadian Constitutional Law*)

**TOPIC #2**
Division of Legislative Powers: This topic considers how the Constitution of Canada distributes legislative powers between the Canadian Parliament and the provincial legislatures. (Bakan et al., *Canadian Constitutional Law*)

**TOPIC #3**
The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: This topic considers how the Constitution of Canada places limitations on legislative power in favour of civil liberties. (Bakan et al., *Canadian Constitutional Law*)

**TOPIC #4**
Topical Issues in Canadian Constitutional Law: In this part of the course we shall consider topical constitutional issues such as the rights of Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, the constitutional implications of Quebec sovereignty efforts and the process of constitutional amendment and reform. (Bakan et al., *Canadian Constitutional Law*)

The course takes a casebook approach which allows students to consider leading constitutional cases, usually those decided by the Supreme Court of Canada. Further information and details with respect to reading assignments for each topic shall be provided in class.